Transgenic Plants

2453. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of field trials for transgenic plants going on in the country;

(b) the details of crops and the names of the companies involved in the process, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to bring transparency in issuing permits for the field trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Three limited field trials are going on in the country on transgenic mustard (Brassica) at Gurgaon, Haryana and Doddaballapur, Karnataka by M/s. Proagro PGS India Ltd., New Delhi; and transgenic cotton at Jalna, Maharastra by M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Co., Mumbai.

(c) Permits are issued in accordance with the Rules for the Manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous micro-organisms/genetically engineered organisms or cells notified by the Ministry of Enviornment & Forests vide Notification No. GSR1037 (E), dated 5.12. 1989. issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The clearances from National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR) are also obtained.

[Translation]

Rural Development Projects of Gujarat

2454. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has been assisting some rural development projects in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and the present status of each of them;

(c) the number of villages in the State facing acute shortage of water;

(d) the time by which the problem of potable water is likely to be solved in the rural areas of the State; and

(e) the funds allocated under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission to the State during 1995-96 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There are 1435 not covered habitation in Gujarat yet to be provided with safe drinking water facilities.

(d) The State Government is expected to provide drinking water facilities to all Non Covered habitations by 1997-98.

(e) Allocation for Gujarat for 1995-96 was Rs. 3850 lakh and for 1997-98 it is Rs. 4987 lakh.

[English]

Telecast of Old Films

2455. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation has decided to telecast some old films based on the theme of freedom movement in the Golden Jubilee year celebrations of the Indian Independance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Culture has shot down the proposal; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has not made any proposal for telecast of old films based on the theme of freedom movement on Doordarshan as a part of celebration of 50 Years of India's Independence. However, NFDC has made a proposal to Department of Culture for exhibition of 13 films on the theme of freedom movement both theatrically and through video for schools, colleges and in semi-urban and rural areas so as to inform the newer generation on freedom struggle and to regenerate national pride. The Department of Culture proposes to screen these films through video.

[Translation]

Documentaries

2456. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received to make documentaries depicting departmental achievements on